



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WITH PHOTO
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**Catie's Closet in Urgent Need of Clothing
Donations for Back to School**

DRACUT, MA - Catie's Closet is turning to the community for back-to-school clothing donations during the months of August and September to benefit children in grades preK-12 who are experiencing poverty and homelessness. Since schools have been closed for six months due to COVID-19, thousands of students have been torn from supportive services and forced into a deeper level of poverty, substantially increasing the need for basic items.

Whether students return to school in person, remotely or in a hybrid form, the clothing items they have access to not only impact their confidence and focus but are critical to their emotional and physical well-being.

"This school year is extremely important as our students are trying to overcome the challenges of COVID-19 while coping with the uncertainties surrounding the next few months of back to school," said Mickey Cockrell, CEO and Co-Founder of Catie's Closet. "No matter how students attend classes, they are in desperate need of basic items that are necessary to their success in school and beyond."

Catie's Closet recently kicked off its fifth annual "Fill The Bus" event to support students going back to school. The organization's goal is to collect 50,000 pieces of clothing to fill its 87 closets for the upcoming school year.

To help Catie's Closet provide for students preK-12 in need, individuals and families can do the any of the following:

- Clean out closets and donate gently used items children would be proud to wear in youth and adult sizes
- Purchase and donate new clothes and/or full-sized toiletries
- Host a virtual clothing drive
- Make a monetary donation to purchase a Confidence Pack

Donors and drive hosts can arrange a drop off at either of the Catie's Closet distribution centers in Dracut or Boston, MA.

To learn more about donating to Catie's Closet's Fill The Bus, visit catiescloset.org.



Photo Outline: Tess (middle) and her friends, Carrie (left) and Lex (right), pose in front of a collection of donated clothes for Catie's Closet. Catie's Closet is requesting clothing donations in August and September to help students in poverty return to school with everything they need, whether they attend classes in person, online or a mix of both.

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Established in 2010, Catie's Closet is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that

improves school attendance and the self-esteem of students living in poverty by offering in-school closets filled with free clothing, toiletries and other necessities. Serving 50,000 students, Catie's Closet is offered in 87 schools across nine school districts in Massachusetts and New Hampshire with distribution centers in Dracut and Boston, Massachusetts. More information is available at catiescloset.org.